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SUBJECT New Ironworks Construction

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1. Construction of a new ironworks was begun on a small scale in 1948 at the town of Saar, situated west of Brno on the Bohemian-Moravian plateau. Since that time much large construction has been undertaken and the following buildings have been completed: five three-story workers' barracks; eight warehouses; two air raid shelters; ten large workshops; 4 four-story and five-story houses; six smaller houses for officials; 110 workers' dwellings. The works occupy an area of about 6 sq km. Between 1,600 and 1,650 men are engaged in the construction. The works, it is said, will employ 15,000 hands when fully completed. The plans were drawn by the office for factory construction planning. The following large national enterprises are concerned in the construction and the delivery of machinery: Storex Works, Ströbel Works, Brno steel combine; UXA Works and UXA light metal combine.
2. A new iron works is nearing completion on an area of between 5 and 6 sq km near Moravská Ostrava. The central office is at Kuntschitz. Six hundred forced laborers and 2,500 to 2,550 regular workmen have been employed during the winter of 1953-1954. Construction is supposed to be completed in April 1954. So far there have been completed: An administration building; six large workshops; two blast furnaces; five Martin furnaces; numerous warehouses, machine shops and workers' houses. The railway connections and communicating roads also are finished. The chief engineer of the works is a Communist activist named Jm/ Kovalcik.

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